

by the United States Pharmacopoeia Board of Trustees. It was originally provided for use in the Philippines and Puerto Rico and also in Cuba, where it was promptly adopted as the official Pharmacopoeia. It is now also official in Costa Rica, Nicaragua (together with the French Codex), Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

The Board of Trustees, in announcing this new edition to the health departments of the republics of Central and South America have expressed the hope that it may be useful to them in the preparation of their own pharmacopoeias, and that it may assist in bringing about uniformity in titles, strengths, and standards of purity among the medicines used in Pan-American countries.

As it has required considerable time for the translation and printing of the Spanish Edition, alterations and corrections, published in the U. S. P., XI, First Supplement, which became official December 1, 1937, have been incorporated.

The book is now on sale by the distributors, The Business Publishers International Corporation, 330 West Forty-second Street, New York, N. Y.

### Concerning the conquest of syphilis and gonorrhea. A statement from Surgeon-General Thomas Parran.

*To the Editor:* The conquest of syphilis and gonorrhea is not a task for official health agencies alone, nor yet for physicians alone. It still is a task for the whole people.

The American Social Hygiene Association is the one national voluntary agency primarily concerned with the prevention and cure of the venereal diseases. It is an organization through which citizens everywhere have an opportunity to do their part in this task.

The Association has been and continues to be not merely a valuable, but an indispensable ally of health authorities and the medical profession in their battles against these diseases. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Association and as a public official, I long have been in a position to observe how important to official health activities is the work of this voluntary agency and its affiliated state and local groups.

The Association's work is particularly needed just now to sustain the new national interest in the dangers of syphilis and gonorrhea, to explain approved measures of control and encourage their practical application, and to aid in the correction of social and educational conditions which favor the spread of these diseases.

By the union of public and private efforts we can minimize syphilis and gonorrhea and the ill health, suffering and waste they cause.

THOMAS PARRAN.

### Concerning "The Foundation Prize" of the American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists, and Abdominal Surgeons.

Huntington, West Virginia,  
January 11, 1938.

*To the Editor:*—Since the announcement a few weeks ago of the award to be made by this Association there have been many inquiries received by the secretary.

I am enclosing to you a copy of the rules governing the awarding of this prize. I will appreciate it very much if you will run this in your journal as a news note. There may be members of the profession in your State who would be desirous of submitting a manuscript in this competition.

With my very kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. BLOSS, M.D.,  
Secretary.

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Rules governing the award of "The Foundation Prize" of the American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists, and Abdominal Surgeons:

1. The award, which shall be known as "The Foundation Prize," shall consist of \$500.

2. Eligible contestants shall include only (a) interns, residents, or graduate students in obstetrics, gynecology, or abdominal surgery, and (b) physicians (with an M.D. degree) who are actively practicing or teaching obstetrics, gynecology, or abdominal surgery.

3. Manuscripts must be presented under a nom de plume, which shall in no way indicate the author's identity, to the secretary of the Association together with a sealed envelope

bearing the nom de plume and containing a card showing the name and address of the contestant.

4. Manuscripts must be limited to 5,000 words, and must be typewritten in double-spacing on one side of the sheet. Ample margins should be provided. Illustrations should be limited to such as are required for a clear exposition of the thesis.

5. The successful thesis shall become the property of the Association, but this provision shall in no way interfere with publication of the communication in the journal of the author's choice. Unsuccessful contributions will be returned promptly to their authors.

6. All manuscripts entered in a given year must be in the hands of the secretary before June 1.

7. The award will be made at the annual meetings of the Association, at which time the successful contestant must appear in person to present his contribution as a part of the regular scientific program, in conformity with the rules of the Association. The successful contestant must meet all expenses incident to this presentation.

8. The president of the Association shall annually appoint a Committee on Award, which, under its own regulations shall determine the successful contestant and shall inform the secretary of his name and address at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

## MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE†

By HARTLEY F. PEART, ESQ.  
San Francisco

### The Legal Status of Physicians Under the Workmen's Compensation Act

*Summary of Industrial Accident Legislation.*—In 1918 the people of California adopted a constitutional amendment which created an Industrial Accident Commission and vested in the legislature plenary power to create and enforce a complete system of workmen's compensation. The constitutional amendment defines such a system as including "full provision for such medical, surgical, hospital and other remedial treatment as is requisite to cure and relieve from the effects of such injury." (Article XX, Section 21, Cal. Const.)

The Workmen's Compensation Act, adopted by the legislature pursuant to the constitutional provision, uses the following language with respect to medical and hospital treatment: "Where liability for compensation under this Act exists, such compensation shall be furnished or paid by the employer and be as provided in the following schedule: (a) Such medical, surgical, and hospital treatment, including nursing, medicine, medical and surgical supplies . . . as may reasonably be required to cure and relieve from the effects of the injury, *the same to be provided by the employer*, and in case of his neglect or refusal seasonably to do so, the employer to be liable for the reasonable expense incurred by or on behalf of the employee in providing the same; provided, that if the employee so requests the employer shall tender him one change of physician and shall nominate at least three additional practicing physicians competent to treat the particular case, or as many as may be available if three cannot reasonably be named, from whom the employee may choose; the employee shall also be entitled, in any serious case, upon request, to the services of a consulting physician to be provided by the employer; *all of said treatment to be at the expense of the employer.*" (Deering's General Laws, Act 4749, Section 9a.)

Section 16 of the Workmen's Compensation Act provides for medical examinations of employees upon written request of the employer, which examinations are to be made by a practicing physician and are to be paid for by the employer.

Thus it may be seen that, under the Workmen's Compensation Act, medical, surgical and hospital treatment must be made available to injured employees, and the services must be rendered by physicians *selected and paid for by the employer*. The Act authorizes employers to protect themselves against liability for compensation (which includes cash award and medical and surgical treatment

† Editor's Note.—This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, containing copy submitted by Hartley F. Peart, Esq., will contain excerpts from and syllabi of recent decisions and analyses of legal points and procedures of interest to the profession.